



Xavier University of Louisiana Genetic Counseling Program

Application Checklist

Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) Genetic Counseling Program (GCP) application deadline is January 2, 2024. Applicants are evaluated holistically based on multiple criteria. The list below details the application components to assist individuals in submitting materials that thoroughly represent their qualifications and experiences.

To learn more about applying to a genetic counseling program, [click here](#).

☐ National Matching Services (NMS) Registration Number

Only applicants who have registered with the Match will be considered. Visit the [NMS website](#) to register for the match, review detailed information about the matching process, and view a demonstration of the matching algorithm.

Registering for the Match costs \$100 USD and is nonrefundable, nontransferable, and irrevocable. Match fee waivers are available. Those applying for a fee waiver must complete the steps [outlined on the NMS website before registering](#) for the match.

All hardcopy documents you submit, including recommendation letters submitted by others, must include your NMS number **in place** of your name. This is part of the process of reviewing an application holistically. The only exception is your official transcript, which is submitted to the Office of Graduate Programs directly from a degree-granting university.

☐ Application Fee

- No application fee

☐ Program Academic Prerequisite Requirements

- Overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 point scale)
- Minimum of a BA or BS degree at the time of matriculation

Required Coursework - must be completed with a "C" (≥ 2.0 on a 4.0 GPA scale) or better

- Genetics (General, Human, or Molecular)
- Introductory or General Biology or Cell Biology
- Statistics or Calculus

Strongly Recommended Coursework - must be completed with a "C" (≥ 2.0 on a 4.0 GPA scale) or better

- Biochemistry
- Introductory or General Chemistry
- Psychology

Applicants must complete all prerequisites before matriculating into the program in the fall semester.



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☐ Transcripts

Unofficial transcripts will be accepted for application review and can be uploaded to the application portal. Applicants currently enrolled in an undergraduate program should submit transcripts, including their **most recent fall grades**.

Applicants are required to provide official transcripts before matriculation.

Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate credits from college or university awarding degree(s), must be sent directly to the:

Office of Graduate Programs

Xavier University of Louisiana

1 Drexel Drive, Box 250

New Orleans, LA 70125

☐ GPA Statement

If your GPA is **below** 3.0, to be considered for the program, you must submit a short statement (maximum 250 words, 12 pt. serif font) explaining why and what steps you have taken to ensure a better academic performance in graduate school. Please remember to use your **NMS number in place of your name**.

☐ Personal Essay

All applicants must upload a personal essay about why they are interested in genetic counseling, their understanding of the field, their relevant prior experiences, and their desire to obtain their graduate degree as the first genetic counseling class at Xavier University of Louisiana (a maximum of 600 words, 12 pt. serif font). Essays over 600 words will not be reviewed. Please remember to use your **NMS number in place of your name**.

☐ Curriculum Vitae

All applicants must upload an up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Please remember to use your **NMS number in place of your name**. ([Resumes starter guide](#))

☐ 3 Letters of Recommendation

Each applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from instructors, employers, undergraduate advisers, volunteer supervisors, or academic/research mentors. **Letters cannot be from peers or family members**. Your recommendation letters should detail why you have the potential for academic success in a genetic counseling program. When selecting people to write your recommendations, they should be able to address your past academic performance and why it reflects your potential as a graduate student, as well as the types of experiences you have had, such as counseling, advocacy, volunteering, research, and/or experiential learning (all as appropriate).

In the Recommendations section of the XULA GCP Application Form, you will be asked to include your references' names, email addresses, and titles. XULA will email each reference and provide a link for the recommendation to be uploaded. Please remember to tell your references to use your **NMS number in place of your name**.



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Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all letters of recommendation are submitted on time. Applicants are encouraged to request their letters well before the deadline and to follow up with their recommenders before the deadline. Applicants can check the status of their letters in the XULA application portal.

☐ Video Question

Each applicant will be asked to record a brief video directly in the application portal. This video will allow you to tell us something about yourself that is not in your application, which will help us remember you and make you stand out. You will have two minutes to record your video and unlimited attempts.

As part of a holistic application process, this video will not be screened during the initial review of applications; however, it will be seen once the candidate selection is made for interviews.

☐ International Students

If you are an international student and English is not your first language, you must provide TOEFL or IELTS scores. [Learn more here.](#)